

Claims 1-41 are pending.

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the present claims require medical article comprising first polymer matrix having a first nitric oxide donor compound disposed within the first polymer matrix; a second polymer matrix having a second nitric oxide donor compound disposed within the second polymer matrix, said second nitric oxide donor compound differing from said first nitric oxide donor compound, and the first polymer matrix being chemically distinct from the second polymer matrix. The closest prior art, Stamler et al. reference, does not teach two different nitric oxide donors in the same device. Stamler does not teach or suggest a medical article comprising two distinct polymers. Sogo does not describe the administration of two different nitric oxide donors simultaneously. Sogo teaches using one drug serially in various concentrations, and teaches nitrosoglutathione and N-(S-nitroso-N-acetylpenicillamine) as alternatives, rather than as a combination.

Therefore, closest prior art (Stamler and Sogo) do not teach or suggest the claimed invention of medical article comprising first polymer matrix having a first nitric oxide donor compound disposed within the first polymer matrix; a second polymer matrix having a second nitric oxide donor compound disposed within the second polymer matrix, said second nitric oxide donor compound differing from said first nitric

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oxide donor compound and the first polymer matrix being chemically distinct from the second polymer matrix.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Claims 1-22, 40, 41 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

3. This application is in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 23-39 directed to non-elected invention **without traverse**. Accordingly, claims 23-39 been cancelled.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Isis A. Ghali whose telephone number is (571) 272-0595. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 6:30 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sharmila Landau can be reached on (571) 272-0614. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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/Isis A Ghali/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1611

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